

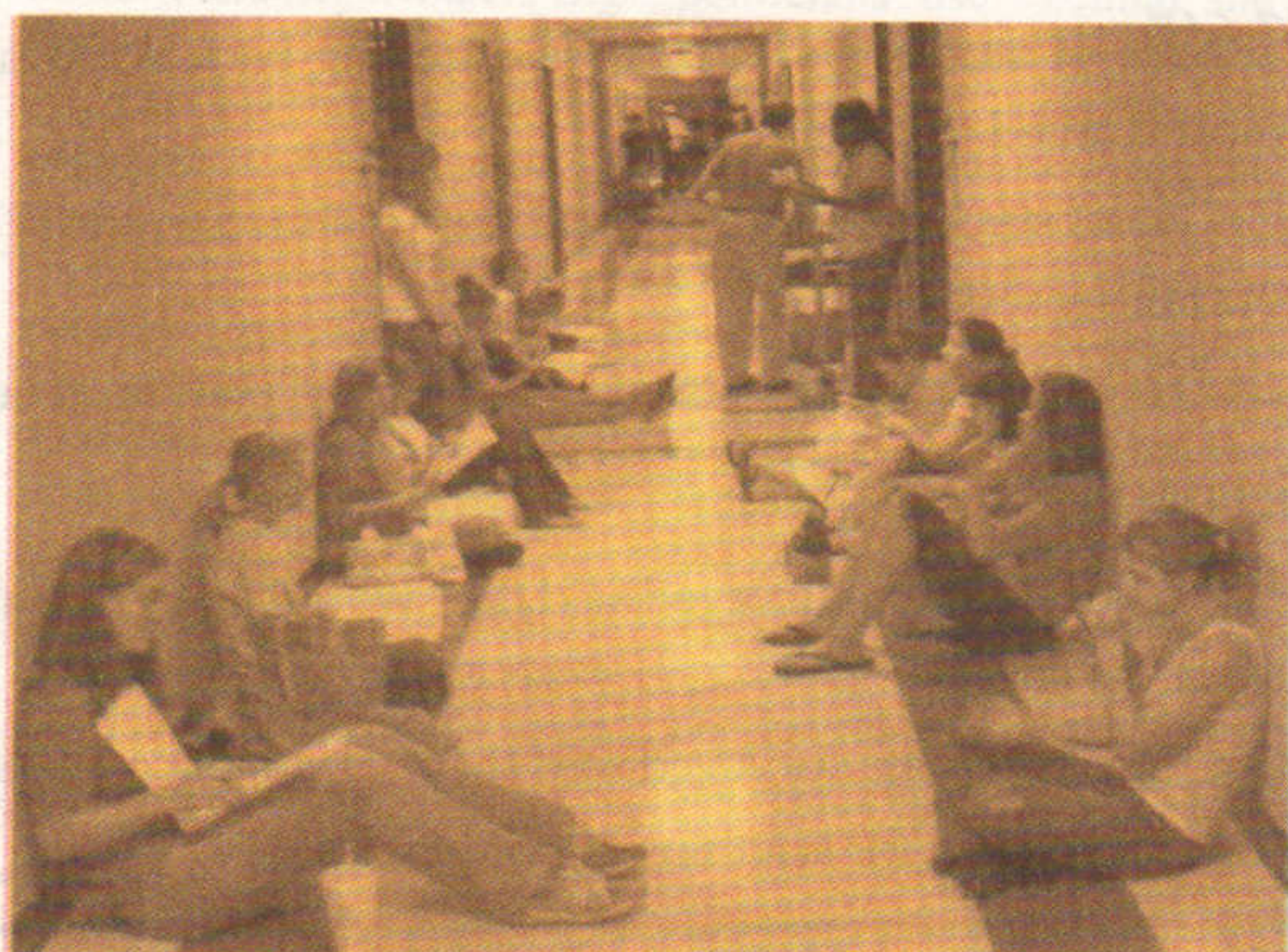
As Shelton grows, do the students change?

By Brandon Neal

The results are now in. A survey of current Shelton State students was administered to get an idea of what goals and expectations they have for this semester.

When asked what they looked forward to most when fall semester begins, 42% of students said that they are most interested in studying and taking classes.

Trinicia Davis said, "Now that I have taken Basic Study Skills, I know how to study". Another student, Deondra Horton, said



Shelton State get some last-second studying outside of a biology classroom before an exam. Many of the college's students are either coming from or heading toward the University of Alabama.

"I have to face my biggest hurdle academically and that is math."

Sixteen percent of students said that they were really excited to meet with their friends during the semester; 26 percent of students said that they are looking forward to fall football. And 16% of students chose the option of other on the survey. Those include passing classes, getting into the nursing program, and Christmas shopping.

When asked how they plan to study this semester, surprisingly, 64 percent of students

Students cont'd
on pg. 2

*A Wry Eye
on politics*

Teetotaler Merrill says: let 'em vote!

By Ryan Phillips

As the 2010 election season slowly nears, local political campaigns are on the move as candidates work to gain the edge in the upcoming election.



John Merrill is running for the Alabama Legislature

Shelton State enrollment increases persist even in hard times

Fall 2009 enrollment numbers are up at Shelton State Community College, with nearly 10 percent more students registered for 8.5 percent more credit hours than in fall of 2008.

Following its drop/add period which ended Aug. 25, the College has 5,708 students enrolled for 61,164 credit hours, which is the highest credit hour production for the College since fall of 2003, which totaled 61,933 but also

included the second split term. The 2009 fall second split term begins Oct. 14.

Online registration is ongoing through October 15 and on-site registration is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 13, which likely will raise enrollment numbers even more.

As of Aug. 26, 496 classes were closed due to reaching maximum enrollment with 428 classes remaining open. The record enrollment marks

the third consecutive semester with increases of double- or nearly double-digit increases over 2008. Smaller class size, more affordable tuition than four-year institutions in the state, and the current economy are a few of many reasons why Shelton State President Dr. Mark Heinrich feels that the College's numbers continue to rise.

"We certainly are encouraged to see the rising number of people who are taking

advantage of what Shelton State has to offer," said Heinrich.

"It is obvious that the residents of West Alabama understand that this College is here to positively impact our community. That happens in large part because of the efforts of the dedicated faculty and staff who work to provide our students with excellence in instructional programs and support."

I recently had the chance to meet one of these candidates, John Merrill, who is running for the District 62 seat vacated by Rep. Gerald Allen, who announced that he plans to challenge Sen. Phil Poole for Senate District 21 seat.

Merrill, who is the director of community relations

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The Courier

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said that they plan to study harder than ever. Thirty-six percent of students said they will study about the same as they currently do.

When asked if they plan to participate in Shelton activities, 30 percent students said they plan to attend basketball games. "Shelton State has a great basketball team. It's very exciting to watch," said Trinicia Davis.

Twelve percent of students said they will join or be a part of Phi Theta Kappa (an academics group that you must have a 3.5 g.p.a to be qualified to be a member).

Susan Mohun, assistant dean at Shelton State for Student Services, said, "I would like to see more school

pride and advertisement for student organizations like SSCC (Shelton Students Committed to Christ) that are currently looking to expand membership for this semester".

Six percent of students said they plan to be a part of or join the Newspaper/Media club. Ron Day said, "Getting this Media Club off the ground will be long overdue." 52 percent of students said that they were not looking forward to any activities.

When asked what activities they like to see Shelton State provide, 10 percent of students said that they would like for Shelton to have intramurals. 42 percent of students said Shelton should have a recreation/student center. Several students said that Shelton should have an all-day cafeteria/café.

Shelton State Courier Poll

42% of students surveyed said getting back to classes was what they were most looking forward to in the fall semester.

26% of students said fall football was what they were most looking forward to in the fall.

16% of students surveyed said getting back with their friends is what they most wanted to do in the fall.

62% of students surveyed said they planned to study harder than ever during the fall semester.

30% of the students surveyed said they plan to attend Buccaneer basketball games this season.

42% of students surveyed said they would like to see a recreation/ student center at the college

52% of students surveyed said they would just come to school this fall and not look necessarily for anything special to do.



The faculty and staff of Shelton State continue to search for the right ways to get the student body a little more involved with the college. Every year, Phi Theta Kappa sponsors a Get-On-Board Day to that end.

The *Shelton State Courier* is brought to its readers by the academic and extracurricular programs of Shelton State Community College.

Shelton State Courier

Staff Writers
Ryan Phillips

Members of
MCM-102 Class

Publisher
Dr. Jim Kenny

The *Shelton State Courier* is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among its functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working

with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Wellness Center provides focus for fitness

By Deondra' Horton

Hundreds of students enroll in physical education classes at Shelton State Community College each year. For many years, physical education has been placed on the back burner by most educational institutions in America. Yet and still, many students flock to the Wellness Center to experience a variety of PED (Physical Education) classes offered that help to combat the stresses of college life and being a student.

Brittany Hines has been attending Shelton State for a year. Hines is a Human Growth and Development major. She recently completed the Personal Fitness course (PED 105) at Shelton State.

This course emphasizes stretching, body toning, warm-up, and cool-down activities. It is best described as a beginner's course. Hines said, "Working out helped me to relax and stay sharp." She plans to enroll in Aerobics (PED 107) next semester because it will be a fun energy booster.

Personal Fitness and Aerobics are just a few of the courses offered through the Wellness Center. Kriddney Summerville is majoring in

Early Childhood Education. She completed Personal Health (HED 199) and First Aid (HED 231) at the college in the fall of 2008. She recommends that all students attending Shelton should enroll in at least one fitness course. When asked why, she said, "Because it's a free-spirited environment where you can relax your mind, exercise, or whatever you need to do without all the stress."

Perhaps one of the most seasoned Wellness students is Kamilah Cameron. Kamilah is working toward a degree in Business Administration.

She has completed numerous fitness courses which include: Tai Chi (PED 150), Slimnastics (PED 101), General Conditioning (PED 118), Aerobics and Kickboxing (PED 159). Cameron said, "The fitness classes have helped me to learn how to deal with all the stress and pressure of being a student."

She enrolled in the fitness classes to create a better quality of life for herself. She also recommends fitness courses to other students. She said, "All students need some form of aerobic activity for a healthy, balanced life."

Not only does the

Wellness Center provide exercise classes, but it also has a special class that deals with stress head on. HED 199 (Stress Management) is a course designed to improve the stress management abilities of students. Tameka Noland is in her final semester of the Nursing Program (LPN). She completed HED 199 last fall. She enrolled in this course because she believed that it would help her during and after school. She said, "This course has taught me how to handle stressful situations and how to use stress management techniques."

All of the students agreed that there were many stress-causing factors that they had to deal with as students, such as: time management, workload, grades, exams, studying, registration, purchasing books, working, and financial aid. Yet and still, they all agreed that fitness and nutrition are important components to living a healthy and balanced life. These four students have different career paths and goals in life. Nonetheless, they were all united by the principles of fitness and the resources that are available through the Wellness Center.

Fredd campus taking bigger and bigger role at Shelton

By Grace Rickman

Don't be surprised if you have many of your classes scheduled at the C. A. Fredd Campus next semester.

"I have three out of my five classes scheduled at this campus and I'm very surprised because this has never happened before," said Shelby Lewis, a student at Shelton State.

The faculty and staff of Shelton are beginning to make some changes around the C. A. Fredd campus and students are beginning to notice these changes. Many students are wondering what the reasons are for incorporating the C. A. Fredd campus into their daily schedule.

Most students at Shelton are not aware of the history of the school itself. Both the Martin Campus and the C. A. Fredd Campus did not always co exist as the two campuses of Shelton.

In 1994 Shelton State Community College merged with C. A. Fredd State Technical College to become one public college. Before this merge, C.A. Fredd State Technical College was known as one of the nation's Historic Black Colleges and Universities.

The Historic Black Colleges and Universities is

an organization that was started by president Jimmy Carter in 1980 that gives millions of dollars worth of funds to certain colleges "to overcome the effects of discriminatory treatment and to strengthen and expand the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide quality education."

The C. A. Fredd Campus still receives these funds in order to promote the diversity of its school and this allows the campus to promote the HBCU mission of access and opportunity for all students in a culturally diverse community. These funds are being used for programs at Shelton to help make the school stronger.

Since 1980, other presidents have expanded and critiqued this order and millions of dollars are given to these colleges and universities each year to promote their mission. "I can see the changes and feel that more people are going to start attending Shelton in the next few years," said Sarah Street, a recent graduate of Shelton.

Make sure to carefully read your schedule to see what campus your classes are being held in the spring because the C. A. Fredd campus might be the location.

Please contact Claire Brock at cbrock@sheltonstate.edu or Julia Speights at jlspeights@sheltonstate.edu if you have any questions about Phi Theta Kappa or if you don't receive an invitation and feel you should have.

Students must meet the following qualifications:

- You must be enrolled in a regionally accredited institution offering an associate degree program.
- You must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to an associate degree (part-time students may be eligible).
- You must have a cumula-

tive grade point average of 3.5;

- You must receive an invitation to membership from the chapter at the college where presently enrolled;
- You must adhere to the moral standards of the society.

The Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Institute was held at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Va. Shelton State students Brittany Lee and Joseph Knight attended this annual event.

They were given the opportunity to listen to many speakers as well as see a small

play on Phi Theta Kappa's Honor Study Topic "Paradox of Affluence: Choices, Challenges, and Consequences."



After the general secession, they participated in small-group discussions with

their seminar group which was led by a faculty advisor. The advisors encouraged the groups to think critically on the issues that had been presented to them in the general secessions. Each seminar group was quite diverse, so the students were able to see many unique perspectives and ideas.

Even though they may not have agreed on all the issues at hand, the seminar groups taught the participants to respect the opinions of everyone and gain a understanding of many issues. As well as new perspectives and ideas, many Phi

Theta Kappans found new friends as there were ample opportunities for fellowship.

Lee and Knight reported enjoyed learning about the different cultures from across the United States to across the world.

While at the International Honors Institute, Knight and Lee had the opportunity to tour Washington DC with some other students from the Alabama Region.

The trip was quick but they got to see our nation's capitol building, Arlington Cemetery, and national monuments, such as the Iowa Jima just to name a few.

Shelton receives reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Shelton State Community College (SSCC) recently received reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). SACS accreditation is important because it signifies the College's commitment to high quality of education, along with the enabling of SSCC to offer student financial aid through the U.S. Department of Education. The College has maintained SACS accreditation since 1994.

The SACS reaffirmation process began in 2006 and required SSCC to provide detailed information about its operations including such things as student learning outcomes, financial viability, qualified employees, governance, and support services for traditional and distance learning students. In the fall of 2008, a team comprised of a SACS representative and peers from other Southeast US community colleges visited SSCC to interview its president, faculty, staff, students, and members of the Board of Trustees.

"I am delighted by the news from SACS on our reaffirmation," explains SSCC President Dr. Mark Heinrich. "This news is a tremendous compliment to the entire campus community. The reaffirmation process at Shelton State has been rigorous,

inclusive, and beneficial for the entire campus community. Not only has this process been a tremendous campus learning experience, but the peer-review team's suggestions have led to a number of valuable improvements to our educational environment."

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. The Commission's mission is the enhancement of educational quality throughout the region and it strives to improve the effectiveness of institutions by ensuring that institutions meet standards established by the higher education community that address the needs of society and students. It serves as the common denominator of shared values and practices among the diverse institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Latin America and other international sites approved by the Commission on Colleges that award associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees. The Commission also accepts applications from other international institutions of higher education

Shelton State presents women's basketball awards

Head Coach Madonna Thompson and the Shelton State Community College Lady Bucs Basketball team recently held their awards banquet, celebrating the exceptional team and individual accomplishments during 2008-2009 season.

As a team, the Lady Bucs finished with a record of 30-6, claimed their fourth straight ACCC and Region XXII championship, and advanced to the NJCAA Division I Tournament where they finished in 6th place. At the tournament the team also claimed the Alberta Lee Cox Sportsmanship Award.

Individually, the players were recognized for the following achievements:

China Antoine (Madison, AL) – Team Captain, Most Assists, Most Steals, Most Defensive Rebounds, ACCC All-League Team, ACCC All-Tournament MVP, and NJCAA All-Tournament Team. Antoine's overall record at Shelton State was 61-11.

Darnisha Lyles (Mobile,

AL) – Most Offensive Rebounds, Most Blocked Shots, Most Double/Doubles, ACCC All-Tournament Team, and Pre-Season All-American (2nd Team)

Marquisha Loper (Waynesboro, MS) – Leading Scorer, ACCC All-Region Team, ACCC All-League Team, ACCC All-Tournament Team, and NJCAA All-American (3rd Team)

Marissa Carter (Albertville, AL) – Highest 3 Point %, Highest Free Throw %, ACCC All-Region Team, ACCC All-League Team, ACCC All-Tournament Team, Highest G.P.A., Member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, SSCC Team Council Member

Joi Walker (St. Louis, MO) – ACCC All-League Team, SSCC Homecoming Queen

Larrenda Rockwell (Tuscaloosa, AL) – Most Improved Award

Carmesha Bullard (Pinson, AL) – 6th Man Award

Ashley Young (Mobile, AL) – BUC WILD AWARD

Margaret Bell (Birmingham, AL) – SSCC Team Council Member

Saraethea Brown (Jackson, MS) – Highest Field Goal %, Hustle Award

Other team members included Aerial Woods (Aliceville, AL), Allison Michael (Marietta, GA), Alex Salomonsky (New Market, AL), and Nicole Caddell. Staff members include Daniel Farley (Manager), Ryan Robinson (Manager), Whitney Bullard (Manager) and Chris Sanford (Assistant Coach).

Several Lady Bucs also signed to play with four-year institutions, including:

China Antoine (University of Minnesota), Margaret Bell (University of North Florida), Joi Walker (South Carolina State University), Darnisha Lyles (University of Tennessee at Martin), Larrenda Rockwell (University of West Alabama), and Ashley Young (University of West Alabama).

Shelton State presents men's basketball awards

Head Coach Barry Mohun and the Shelton State Community College Bucs Basketball team recently held their awards banquet, celebrating the exceptional team and individual accomplishments during 2008-2009 season.

As a team the Bucs finished with a record of 32-4, including a 32-game win streak, and claimed their second straight ACCC championship, and bid to the NJCAA Division I Tournament.

Individually, the players were recognized for the following achievements:

Courtney Carr (Selma, AL) – Outstanding Freshman
LaJay Sears (Decatur, AL) – Best Offensive Player, Northern League 2nd Team

Trevell Coleman (Alberta, AL) – Coaches' Award, Northern League 2nd Team, Team Captain

Brandon Williams (Huntsville, AL) – Best 3-Pt. Shooter, 2nd Team NJCAA All-American, 1st Team All Region, Northern League 1st Team, ACCC All-Tournament Team

Charles Perona (Tuskegee, AL) – Best Defensive Player, 2nd Team All-Region, Northern League 1st Team, ACCC All-Tournament Team, Team Captain

Jarodious Willingham (Decatur, AL) – Team Captain
Cortez Irby (Camden, AL) – Most Improved, ACCC State Tournament M.V.P., NJCAA All-Tournament

Team, Northern League 2nd Team

Sterling Jones (Houma, LA) – Best Defensive Player, ACCC All-Tournament Team

Justin Wagner (Greensboro, AL) – Bucs Spirit Award

Brian Reid (Durham, NC) – Hustle Award

Several Bucs also signed to play with four-year institutions, including:

LaJay Sears (Stillman College), Trevell Coleman (University of West Alabama), Brandon Williams (Alabama State University), Charles Perona (Auburn University-Montgomery), Cortez Irby (Kennesaw State University) and Brian Reid (Mid-Continent University).

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with the Shelton State
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Shel-Shots



You can get on board more than just campus organizations each fall at the college, since many businesses also set up display tables.



Cody Dearman says, "I want to do it all!" as he signs up for several mass communication activities, including Maxwell's Crossing, the annual arts publication.



President Mark Heinrich addresses staff members during the first of what he promised would be a series of meetings with the people who really run the college on a day-to-day basis.



Though they were out there in the August heat, most faculty and staff members of Shelton State seemed to begrudgingly admit that the (color-coded) team-building exercises the college came up with to begin the new school year were fun and effective. Since a cross-section of different departments were thrown together, the most common comment was, reportedly: "You know, I never would have gotten to know her, if we hadn't have done this..."



Elaine Heinrich, wife of the president of Shelton State Dr. Mark Heinrich, recently hosted a get-to-know-you luncheon for retired faculty and staff members of the college at the Unity Center on the Fredd campus.

Shannon Gryska of the Community Education office belts out a rendition of "Stand By Your Plan" during the fall campus-wide meeting.

The former Miss Alabama also seemed to be giving a preview of Theatre Tuscaloosa's first play, Honky Tonk Angels, though Griska herself is not in the production.



Music department remaining fall concert schedule

Every year the Shelton State music department provides a steady stream of classical music entertainment on the best-possible terms: free! Here is the recently released lineup for the fall semester.

SEPTEMBER

22 Music of the Renaissance, Shelton State Music Faculty and Friends, David Cantrell, Dr. Alan Blackshear, Glinda Blackshear, Dr. Mark Brown, Syble Coats, Dr. Leslie Poss, Susan Goode, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

29 Stephen Cary, tenor, Kevin Chance, piano, Music Faculty, University of Alabama, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

OCTOBER

6 Shelton State Jazz Ensemble, Dr. Alan Blackshear, director, Bean Brown Theatre, 1:15 p.m.

13 Musicale, Voice, piano, percussion students, Shelton State Community College, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

20 Music of the Baroque Period, Shelton State Music Faculty and Friends, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

25 Shelton Singers Sacred Concert, Lord Nelson Mass by Joseph Haydn, Glinda Blackshear and Dr. Mark Brown, directors, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 3 p.m.

27 U of A Student

Pianists, Amanda Penick, teacher, University of Alabama, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

NOVEMBER

3 Shelton State Jazz Ensemble, Dr. Alan Blackshear, director, Bean Brown Theatre, 1:15 p.m.

10 Musicale, Voice, piano, percussion students, Shelton State Community College, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

17 The Capstone Quartet, University of Alabama students, Dr. Dan Sweaney, director, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

24 Contemporary Ensemble, Dr. Marvin Johnson, director, Alabama Power Recital Hall, 1:15 p.m.

DECEMBER

1 Christmas Tree Lighting, Music Department Shelton State Community College, Martin Campus Atrium, 1:15 p.m.

8 Scenes from Christmas Belles, Theatre Tuscaloosa, Tina Fitch, director, Bean Brown Theatre, 1:15 p.m.

11 Shelton State Holiday Celebration of the Arts, Shelton Singers, Shelton State Jazz Ensemble, Atrium: 6 p.m., Reception and Art Show, Sandra Ray Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m. *Christmas Belles*, Theatre Tuscaloosa, Bean Brown Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Shelton State Community College/Alabama Fire College paramedic class achieves record certification exam results

All six members of the 2009 Shelton State Community College (SSCC) Paramedic Program at the Alabama Fire College passed the National Registry of EMT certification exam, achieving a rare 100 percent pass rate that well surpasses state (69 percent) and national (77 percent) averages.

Graduates of the year-long program include Bailey Price, John Osborn, Cameron Shipley, Jason Grantham, Leslie Hubbard, and Dusty Fowler. The National Registry

Exam is a demanding and comprehensive certification exam that measures a student's knowledge base, and is historically a stumbling block for many students to beginning their career. Last year the Shelton State program also boasted a 93 percent pass rate.

"There is nothing magical about what we do here, we just strive to start with the basics and utilize them as building blocks throughout the course," says Scott McCary, the program's director.

"All aspects are covered

in detail, then covered again, and again, until it is obvious that the knowledge has been retained by the students. We work them long, work them hard, but at the end the finished product is incredible, resulting in a highly trained, street-ready paramedic. It should go without saying that the support we have received from Shelton State and the Alabama Fire College has been a major factor in our students' success. The resources we have are incredible."

Theatre Tuscaloosa goes a little bit country with *The Honky Tonk Angels*

Hear more than 30 of your favorite country classics when Theatre Tuscaloosa presents "The Honky Tonk Angels." The October 2-11, 2009 production can be seen at the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State, 9500 Greensboro Road.

Tickets are \$22-adult; \$17-senior adult; \$10-student; and \$6-Shelton students. They are available through Theatre Tuscaloosa's website theatretusc.com or you may call the ticket office at 205.391.2277. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are also available.

This hit country musical revue features songs by legendary artists such as Dolly Parton, Kitty Wells, Loretta Lynn, Reba McEntire, Tammy Wynette, Pam Tillis and many more. Written by Ted Swindley ("Always...Patsy Cline"),

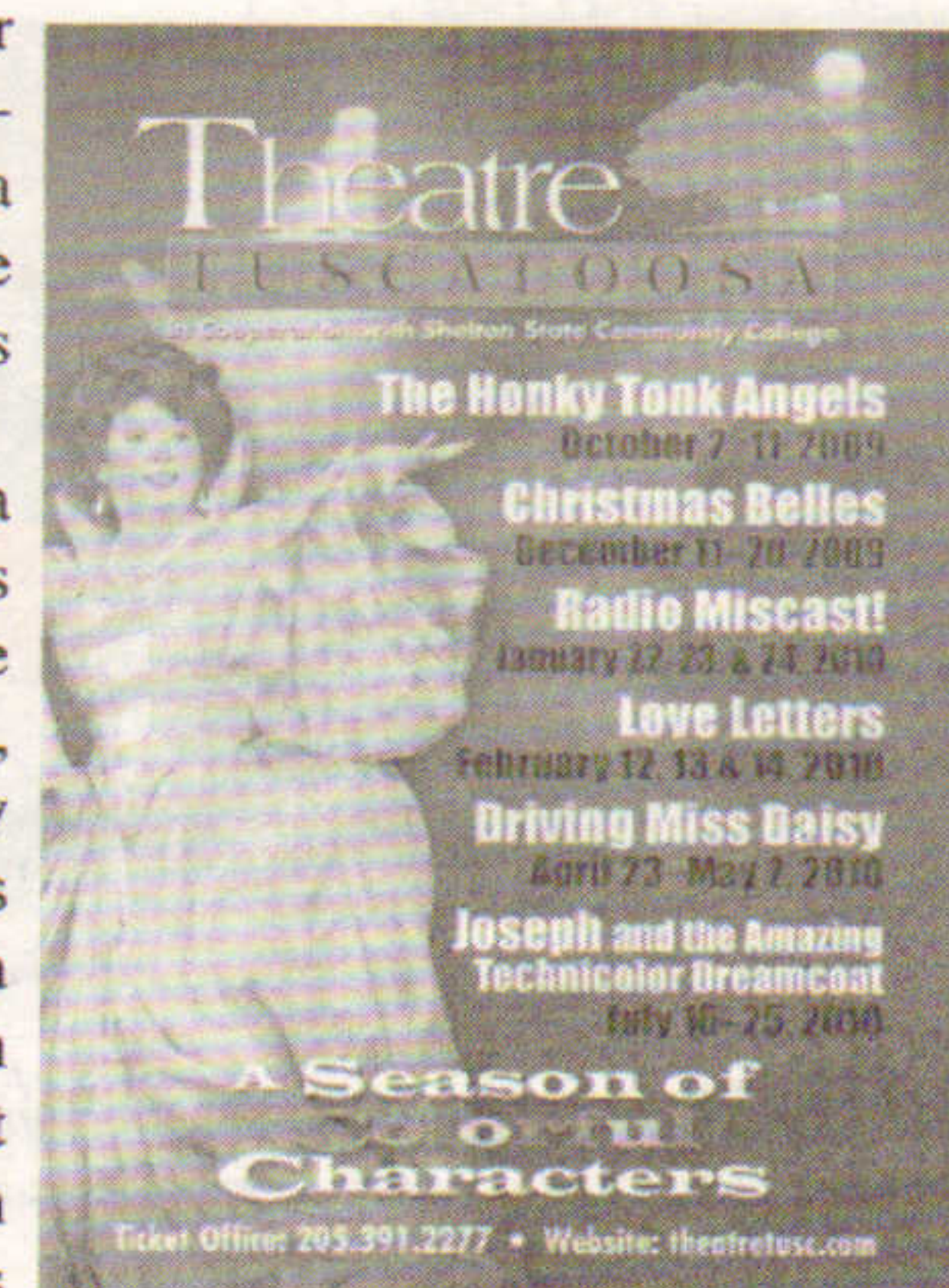
Angels is a hilarious and heartwarming story about Darlene, Sue Ellen and Angela, three good ole

gals who follow their musical dreams to Nashville. Romance, husband problems, independence, and a little gospel thrown in for good measure, result in a thrilling theatrical mixture of laughter, friendship, and maybe a tear or two. Paul Looney, Theatre Tuscaloosa's Director Emeritus, is director and set designer for the show. Other members of the production staff are Kenny Smitherman, musical director; Simon Levy, technical director; Jeanette Waterman, costumer and Erin Hisey, lighting designer. Tina Fitch is Theatre Tuscaloosa's Executive Producer.

Angels stars Sara Margaret Cates as Angela, Nicole Jordan as Sue Ellen, and Ashley Wieronski as Darlene. Sara Margaret from Tuscaloosa, was last seen this summer in Theatre Tuscaloosa's

critically acclaimed *The Sound of Music* as Frau Schmidt. Nicole Jordan from Memphis, is a musical theatre major at the University of Alabama. Jordan is the reigning Miss University of AL.

Ashley Wieronski from Southaven, Miss., is a sophomore at the UA, double-majoring in musical theatre and broadcast news. She was last seen as Joanne in UA's Summertime production of *Godspell*.



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Merill cont'd
from pg. 1

and community education for the Tuscaloosa County School System, and also chairman of the Tuscaloosa County Republican party ran for the district 62 in 2002, but was defeated.

On June 30 of this year, Merrill received a call from the office of Governor Riley, by whom he was asked to announce his candidacy for the position.

He announced on July 13 that he would be a candidate for the Alabama legislator in order to start fund raising.

In terms of finances, Merrill stated "that prior to the legislator going into session he had \$11,000 raised to

fund his campaign." (Candidates are not allowed to raise money while the Legislator is in sessions).

Merrill is also a very involved member of the community, working with groups such as the American Red Cross, The American Cancer Society, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The political scene has appealed to Merrill since a young age. This is evident because he was the 7th independent (non-Greek) SGA President at the University of Alabama, where he graduated with a B.A in Arts and Sciences in 1990.

I was recently invited by Mr. Merrill to hear him speak to the YMCA men's club. During his speech, he touched

on some key issues that have been topics of discussion in state and local politics. Merrill holds rare stances to two debates occurring in our district and state. These debates are Sunday liquor sales and a state lottery.

In a time when most politicians use "behind the back" legislation to accomplish personal goals, Merrill stated that on those issues, he simply wants the people to vote on it, which is a far cry from the secrecy of political agenda setting seen in recent attempted legislation at the federal level.

When asked about Sunday liquor sales during his speech, he stated that "I cannot for the life of me figure out why people will not give

individuals in our community the opportunity to vote on a issue that affects everyone that lives here."

Before this statement Merrill claimed, "I've never had a drink of alcohol In my life, not wine, beer, mix drinks, whatever, period."

But his stance on Sunday liquor sales is profound because of the fact that he set his biases aside in order to let the people who he hopes will elect him, decide for themselves; something not seen often in politics. This is also the approach he takes towards a lottery in this state, bring it to a vote and let the people that it affects decide. Merrill claims that "I also know what it means to take a stand and the people should vote period,

and if you're against something, you should get out and campaign against the issue."

This political philosophy is important because it is what our country was founded upon, and is a philosophy that has quietly changed in recent years. In a country such as ours, it is critical that our opinions aren't forged by elected officials, but that we hold the power to make our own decisions to move our nation forward.

John Merrill said he wants the people to vote on the issues directly, and in taking this angle, he may have a valid shot at winning his first political position in Montgomery.

Do you have any artistic...



tendencies?

Prepare your work—drawings, paintings, fiction, poetry, essays—for this year's issue of Maxwell's Crossing, Shelton State's fine arts publication, printed in December. Every work selected will earn the artist a Shelton State mug. "The Best of Show" work also earns a plaque. Submit work to the Shelton State Courier office, Room 2319, or via e-mail to the publisher: jkenny@sheltonstate.edu

Turns out the Bridge Program is humming right along

By Casey L. O'Quinn

An article was printed last issue stating that the University of Alabama and Shelton State Bridge Program was no longer in existence. There was a misunderstanding that took place, and some corrections need to be made.

The Alabama-Shelton State Bridge Program helps students become more accustomed to college life and prepares them for the journey that lies ahead. Students who apply for admission to the University of Alabama are automatically considered for an invitation to the Bridge Program. The students who receive an invite and accept become students at both the University of Alabama, which is notoriously known for

excelling in academics and sports, and also Shelton State Community College, which is the fastest-growing community college in the state of Alabama.

As a student in the Bridge Program, one would attend classes at Shelton State yet still enjoy the benefits of both schools. Students in the Bridge Program receive access to a UA student Action Card and myBama e-mail account, access to libraries at both schools, Alabama football tickets, and numerous theatrical, musical, and artistic performances at Bean-Brown Theatre located at Shelton State.

While enjoying all these benefits, students must complete 24 transferable hours of core classes, a passing grade in the First Year Student

Resource courses, and a 2.5 grade point average. Upon completion of these requirements, students are eligible to transfer to the University of Alabama.

The program is primarily driven by the University of Alabama and is coordinated by Landon Waid. Students are required to take one class

As a student in the Bridge Program, one would attend classes at Shelton State yet still enjoy the benefits of both schools.

with Waid each semester until they transfer to the university. Waid said, "We are excited about the 2009 class of the UA/Shelton State Bridge

Program. This year's class will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities and seminars designed to improve their academic foundation. Many other events including social, cultural, and athletic will enhance their overall college experience."

Byron Abston, the assistant dean of student services at Shelton State said, "Landon Waid is truly concerned with his student's best interest." Shelton State has received benefits from the program that include out of state students that would not have enrolled otherwise. "We get the students who would normally not attend. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose," Abston said.

The Bridge Program has expanded greatly since it

began three years ago. The first Bridge Program class consisted of 15 to 20 students. Now, the Bridge Program has 60 or more enrolled students. Holly Elliot, the director of the Counseling Center at Shelton State said, "We have seen that the Bridge Program students do just as well as native Shelton State students." In addition to this, students at Shelton State average the same grade point average as those students at the University of Alabama.

The University of Alabama-Shelton State Bridge Program has overall positively influence the lives of many students throughout the history of its existence. In fact, with the success rate being so high, many say they would like to see similar programs in the future.

Four new Medical Technology programs offered at Shelton State

The Training for Business and Industry Division at Shelton State Community College is offering four new medical technology programs during the 2009 fall semester at its Martin Campus, 9500 Old Greensboro Road.

Capitalizing on some of the fastest growing occupations in the field of health care, the College will offer four non-credit training programs beginning in late September: Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Medical Billing and Coding and Dental Assisting.

The Pharmacy Technician program is a comprehensive 50-hour course that is designed to prepare students to enter the pharmacy career field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board's PTCB exam. The course will be offered from October 13

through December 3, from 6 – 9:30 p.m. at the Martin Campus. Course fees total \$999, which includes textbooks.

Technicians work in hospitals, home infusion pharmacies, community pharmacies and other health care settings – working under the supervision of a registered pharmacist. Content includes medical terminology related to the pharmacy, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will also learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, and inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

The Phlebotomy Technician program is a 90-hour course that prepares professionals to collect blood specimens for the purpose of laboratory analysis.

Students become prac-

ticed in proper and effective collective techniques, gain an understanding of the human anatomy and physiology, learn the role of the phlebotomist in a variety of medical settings, learn proper laboratory procedures in order to maintain safety, and much more. The course will be offered from Sept. 29, 2009, through January 14, 2010, from 6 – 9:30 p.m. at the Martin Campus. Course fees total \$1,599 with textbooks included.

The Medical Billing and Coding program is a 70-hour course that combines billing and coding in order to provide students the skills needed to solve insurance billing problems, to file claims, complete common insurance forms, trace delinquent claims, appeal denied claims and use generic forms to streamline billing procedures.

The course covers CPT, specialty fields, ICD-9 and basic claims processes for

medical insurance and third party reimbursements. After obtaining appropriate work experience, students who complete this course could be qualified to sit for a number of professional certifications. The course will be offered from Oct. 5 through Dec. 21, and the course fees total \$1,499 (including textbooks).

The Dental Assisting program is a 60-hour course that prepares students for entry-level positions in the field of dental care and familiarizes students with administrative and clinical aspects of working with a dental practitioner.

From learning oral anatomy and tooth structure to properly handling and sterilizing equipment and functioning in a dental office, students will obtain the necessary training and skills required to function as an assistant.

This program is also ideal for students interested in pursuing a future formal

Dental Hygienist program. The course is offered Oct. 12 through Dec. 14, from 6 – 9:30 p.m. at the Martin Campus. Course fees total \$1,199 including textbooks.

For more information or to register, call 205.391.2434 or visit the Training for Business and Industry page at www.sheltonstate.edu

Interested in the movies?

Have you always wanted to help make a movie?

The Shelton State Community College mass communication program is in the process of forming the Shelton State Movie-Makers club. Club meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Student Activity Center Conference Room.